REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated April 5, 2006, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on July 5, 2006. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 10-24, 29, 31 and 32 are pending in the application. Claims 10-24, 29, 31 and 32 remain pending following entry of this response. Claims 10 and 29 have been amended. Applicant submits that the amendments do not introduce new matter.

Interview Summary

On June 21, 2005 a telephonic interview was held between Gero G. McClellan, attorney of record, and Examiner Rimell. The parties discussed proposed claim amendments to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101. The parties discussed proposed amendments to claims 10 and 29. The proposed amendments are reflected in this response. The Examiner agreed that the proposed amendments discussed place the claims in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 10-17 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is non-statutory. Claims 10-17 and 29 would be allowed if amended pursuant to the suggestion provided by the Examiner. Claims 10-17 and 29 have been amended accordingly, and the claims are believed to be allowable.

Allowed Claims

Claims 18-24 and 31-32 are allowed.

<u>Conclusion</u>

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted, and
S-signed pursuant to 37 CFR 1.4,

/Gero G. McClellan, Reg. No. 44,227/
Gero G. McClellan
Registration No. 44,227
PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, L.L.P.
3040 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1500
Houston, TX 77056
Telephone: (713) 623-4844
Facsimile: (713) 623-4846
Attorney for Applicant(s)